CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1-12 cancelled

13. (currently amended) A method for monitoring a space or a vicinity of an automotive vehicle for a presence of a foreign body or an obstacle using a monitoring device, the monitoring device having at least one transmitter and at least one first and one second receiving device, wherein the second receiving device is spaced further apart from the transmitter than the first receiving device, the method comprising the steps of:

    a) receiving at least one second received signal from the second receiving device;
    b) evaluating at least one part of the second received signal for parasitic signal portions which indicate a presence of a parasitic signal source in the space; and
    c) monitoring or evaluating a monitoring result only when no parasitic signal portion has been detected in step b), wherein the part of the second signal evaluated for detection of the parasitic signal portions is received before a threshold time represented by a spatial distance between the second receiving device and the transmitter.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the space is monitored or a monitoring result is evaluated only after lapse of a predetermined stop time after a last detection of parasitic signal portions in a previous instantaneous second received signal.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the stop time is fully reset for each repeated detection of parasitic signal portions.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the space is monitored or a monitoring result is evaluated only when no parasitic portions have been detected in a predetermined number of repeated evaluations of the second received signal.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein detection of the foreign body further comprises the steps of:

transmitting a transmission signal via the transmitter into the space at a transmitting time;
receiving a first received signal of the first receiving device and the second received signal of the second receiving device; and
evaluating at least the first received signal for a presence of the foreign body in the space.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the foreign body is represented by portions of the transmission signal reflected from the foreign body in at least one of the first and the second received signals.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the monitoring device comprises several transmitters each with at least one first and one second associated receiving device, individual transmitters and their associated receiving devices being preferably alternately activated in cycles for individual repetitions of detection of the foreign body or evaluation of the second received signal.

21. (previously presented) A computer program including program code for a monitoring device to perform the method of claim 13.

22. (previously presented) A data carrier comprising the computer program of claim 21.

23. (currently amended) A device for monitoring a space or a vicinity of an automotive vehicle for a presence of a foreign body or an obstacle using a monitoring device, the monitoring device having at least one transmitter and at least one first and one second receiving device, wherein the second receiving device is spaced further apart from the transmitter than the first receiving device, the device comprising:

means for receiving at least one second received signal from the second receiving device;
means for evaluating at least one part of the second received signal for parasitic signal portions which indicate a presence of a parasitic signal source in the space; and
means for monitoring or evaluating a monitoring result only when no parasitic signal portion has been detected in the second received signal, wherein the part of the second signal evaluated for detection of the parasitic signal portions is received before a threshold time represented by a spatial distance between the second receiving device and the transmitter.

24. (previously presented) The device of claim 23, wherein a first evaluation means evaluates a first received signal of said first receiving device for a presence of a foreign body in the space and a second evaluation means evaluates at least a portion of the second

received signal for parasitic signal portions which indicate a presence of a parasitic signal portion in the space, wherein a control means activates the at least first evaluation means or releases a monitoring result concerning the presence of a foreign body only when the second evaluation means has detected no parasitic signals in the second received signal.

25. (previously presented) The monitoring device of claim 24, wherein the second receiving device is designed to receive signals which are physically similar to or physically different from those of the first receiving device.

26. (previously presented) The monitoring device of claim 24, wherein the transmitter and/or receiving devices are at least partially formed as part of a transformer means.

27. (previously presented) The monitoring device of claim 26, wherein the transformer means is operated as a transmitter or receiving device.